

# The Sun

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## Is Rockhill to Be Called?

It may be difficult to find the right man to fill the shoes of Professor JOHN BASSETT MOORE, counselor to the State Department, but the report that W. W. ROCKHILL will be appointed his successor seems too good to be true. Mr. ROCKHILL is not an encyclopedia of international precedents like Professor MOORE; his practical knowledge of diplomatic intercourse is very extensive, however. Seldom has any American seen so much service. Mr. ROCKHILL has been thirty years in harness, beginning as Secretary of the American Legation at Peking in 1884. On Far Eastern affairs he is perhaps the greatest living American authority. Minister to China for four years and Ambassador to Russia for two years, he had been Ambassador to Turkey since April, 1911, when he was relieved by President Wilson.

Mr. ROCKHILL has also served as chief clerk of the State Department and as first and third Assistant Secretary of State. Under the auspices of the Smithsonian Institution he was in charge of two scientific missions that spent four years in China and Tibet. Also a linguist and a writer on Oriental subjects, Mr. ROCKHILL would be of great value to any Administration, Republican or Democratic. He has served under five Presidents, and, like an officer of the army or navy, he has never had any politics in the performance of his duties.

If President Wilson has reconsidered his decision not to employ WILLIAM WOODVILLE ROCKHILL it is a matter for congratulation. He is worth an incalculable number of the kind of politicians who have been displacing good men in the diplomatic service to cancel obligations incurred by the President and Mr. BRYAN.

## Need the President Proclaim Any Canal Tolls at Present?

The duties and powers of the President with regard to the opening, maintenance, protection and operation of the Panama Canal and the sanitation and government of the Canal Zone are partly defined in the act approved on August 24, 1912. The requirements of this statute and the provisions of the Hay-Pauncefote treaty constitute the code for the President. We mention the Hay-Pauncefote treaty in connection with the Panama Canal act because the treaty, not less than the statute, is part of the supreme law of the land.

Suppose that Congress should overlook all considerations of national honor and contract obligation and follow the lead of Senator JAMES A. O'GORMAN of New York and Representative OSCAR W. UNDERWOOD of Alabama in refusing to vote for the repeal of the coastwise exemption clause.

What, then, would be the President's duty under the existing law?

The existing law, meaning thereby both the Panama Canal act of 1912 and the Hay-Pauncefote treaty of 1902, for they are both binding upon him, is mandatory in two particulars, both negative:

1. The President must not impose tolls upon vessels engaged in the coastwise trade of the United States. This express prohibition is contained in Section 5 of the Canal act of 1912.

2. The President must not prescribe tolls discriminating in favor of one nation as against another or involving terms of inequality in respect of the conditions or charges of traffic. This prohibition is contained in Article III of the Hay-Pauncefote treaty of 1902.

Of course both of the foregoing provisions of law would be obeyed by the President if he refrained from prescribing any tolls whatever; that is, if he carried out the plain requirement of Section 5 of the Canal act exempting American coastwise vessels from payment for passage between the oceans, and also carried out the plain requirement of Article III of the treaty by exempting the vessels of other nations likewise.

What is there to prevent that solution of the difficulty, a canal free to all until the President is able to prescribe tolls which discriminate against no nation observing the Suez rules?

Well, there is this further provision of Section 5 of the Canal act, apparently fixing a maximum and a minimum of charge, and reiterating, in a clause frequently overlooked in discus-

sions of the subject, the offensive principle of discrimination in favor of our own vessels:

"Tolls may be based upon gross or net registered tonnage, displacement tonnage, or otherwise. . . . The rate of tolls may be lower upon vessels in ballast than upon vessels carrying passengers or cargo. When based upon net registered tonnage for ships of commerce the tolls shall not exceed one dollar and twenty-five cents per net registered ton, nor be less, other than for vessels of the United States and other citizens, than the estimated proportionate cost of the actual maintenance and operation of the canal, subject, however, to the provisions of Article XIX of the convention between the United States and the Republic of Panama (the Hay-Bunau Varilla treaty), entered into November 18, 1903. If the tolls shall not be based upon net registered tonnage, they shall not exceed the equivalent of one dollar and twenty-five cents per net registered ton as nearly as the same may be determined, nor be less than the equivalent of seventy-five cents per net registered ton. The toll for each passenger shall not be more than one dollar and fifty cents."

It will be observed that the first italicized passage in the foregoing extract from the Canal act directly contravenes a requirement of law contained in the Hay-Pauncefote treaty. The second passage which we have italicized expressly recognizes as binding on the President another provision of law contained in another treaty, the Hay-Bunau Varilla treaty. What is he to do in face of these contradictory, inconsistent and in one sense impossible provisions?

These provisions as to maximum and minimum of toll charge apply to the President only in case he undertakes to prescribe and proclaim tolls. By the canal law he is "authorized" to prescribe and proclaim tolls. But does the law anywhere require that he shall do so at any given time, at least before it becomes possible for him to observe the limitations of the act without violating the provisions of the treaty?

## Why This Parade of a Stuffed Suit?

When CHARLES CROKER, seeing the passing of the lean years for Tammany that followed the Lexow investigation, returned to America in 1897 and drove JOHN C. SHEEHAN out of the Hall's leadership, he wanted an uptown home, and picked the Democratic Club as its site. The club had known days of moderate prosperity in the period between Mr. CLEVELAND's administrations, but was of no particular consequence politically until CROKER set up his headquarters there.

During the four years of VAN WYCK the Democratic Club was influential and important. All loyal Tammany men were given to understand that they must join and dress the part. Therein the late TOM DUNN, responding to a political worker not famous for devotion to the niceties of dress, on being asked what he thought of his associate's evening clothes, said: "Fine; you look great in 'em; why don't you buy a suit?" CROKER held court nightly, and many were the strange sights to be witnessed in the club.

When CROKER and VAN WYCK brought another licking to Tammany CROKER quit the chairmanship of the finance committee, and after NIXON and the Trimviate Murphy reorganized the Wigwag forces, MURPHY's uptown seat was in a public restaurant. He did not care for the Democratic Club, and his lack of interest in it was immediately reflected in its attendance. Many of the men who had joined because of CROKER ceased to use it, and the club relapsed into its previous condition of inconspicuousness. Its rolls bore the names of many prominent men, but they "did business" further down Fifth avenue.

Then came the effort to resuscitate the organization as a national establishment. The capitalized adjective "National" was tacked to the front of "Democratic Club," dinners were held at which well known visitors from far talked Jeffersonian philosophy, modified to meet the times, and "the scope of the club was greatly widened." Wherein its influence has been effective would be difficult to say, but some good dinners have been served within its walls, and a noble poker game once was housed under its roof tree.

It is from this National Democratic Club that MURPHY has now been extruded by the friends of CROKER, whose activities in local politics have been increasingly apparent since the defeat of the Tammany ticket last fall.

CROKER himself has put a spoon in the portage. His remaining friends seem to have some definite and specific purpose behind their assaults on MURPHY. Certainly they are annoying him; perhaps they are hurting him. The suggestion that CROKER hopes once more to "come back" is grotesque, but to what end is an old suit of his clothes stuffed with straw being paraded about the Democratic enclosure?

## Quien Sabe?

The commission appointed by "First Chief" CARRANZA to investigate and report upon the manner of WILLIAM S. BENTON's death accomplishes nothing as the days pass and is dropping out of public notice. General FRAUSTO, the head of the commission, being asked to account for a rumor that it had gone to Chihuahua when it was still downing and said, "Quien sabe?"

That is the stock question on the border. Why does General CARRANZA daily at Agua Prieta when General VILLA is oppressed with the cares of state at Chihuahua and the world says that the real leader of the Constitutionalists is the ex-outlaw? Quen sabe? How comes it that "Pancho" VILLA has ceased to be a rude, unlettered, ragged bandit and has developed into a suave, wise, self-reliant, and well informed administrator in a new General's uniform? Quen sabe?

What has become of the military operations to drive the Federals out of Torreon and carry the war to the gates

of the capital? Quen sabe? Why doesn't Huerta crumble? Quen sabe? Why was it said that when the embargo upon arms was raised the Constitutionalists would take city after city and sweep the Federals like chaff before them? Quen sabe? Is there ever going to be a pitched battle between the insurgents and the Government troops? Quen sabe? Is not the policy of both sides in Mexico one of "watchful waiting"? Quen sabe?

**Mr. Van Tuyl's Banking Bill.**  
All bankers doing business under New York State charter should obtain and proceed to consider carefully the so-called Van Tuyl bill for the revision of the State banking laws which has been introduced in the Legislature at Albany. The bill is a result of the work of a commission which Superintendent VAN TUYL caused to be created, and it is evident from an inspection of the measure that a good deal of its work was thoughtfully done. It is also quite apparent that the labors of the commission, which by the way were headed by a banker more conspicuously identified with operations in the national than in the State field, are likely in turn to need revision.

Here is a paragraph which one stumbled on in Article III, devoted to State banks:  
"Within ten days after the date on which the annual meeting of stockholders is held the directors elected at such meeting shall, after their due qualification, hold a meeting at which they shall elect from their own number a president, a vice-president, a cashier and such other officers as are provided for in the by-laws."

This paragraph is section 123 of Article III. Practically the same paragraph constitutes section 213 of Article V, dealing with trust companies. The only difference being that the words "a cashier" do not occur in the trust company section. Merely to direct attention to this peculiar provision is almost enough to demonstrate its absurdity.

If sections 123 and 213 of the Van Tuyl bill should become law as they stand they would operate almost automatically to project the executive officers of all State banks and trust companies in New York into the boards of directors of their respective institutions. The responsible managements of banking institutions know well that this is neither necessary nor wise. If it were, if any advantages could accrue therefrom, legislative compulsion would not have been awaited.

All banking corporations have a sufficient representation of their executive staff in their directorates. To require them to choose their officers from their boards of directors could not fail to bring about some very queer results if it were a practical possibility. Boards of directors are for the most part composed of men of large affairs measured by the standards of the communities in which they live and do business. They have graduated from salaried ranks as a rule and would hardly make the best material for subordinate places in the roles of bank officers. At the same time the best material for bank officers is as a rule that which has hardly qualified itself for membership in bank directorates, however promising it may be.

Again, if the sections referred to should take effect as law they might oblige a number of institutions either to enlarge their directorates undesirably or cut down their official staffs undesirably. No one can pretend that the executive officers of a bank should have control of the board of directors, which supervises the workings of the bank. Yet without other changes in relationship the foregoing sections of the Van Tuyl banking bill might, in many cases, have the effect of placing the officers of a bank or trust company in control of the board of directors.

It is possible that a strained reading of the text may permit the construction that directors are to elect from their own number only presidents and vice-presidents, but the plain meaning of the language is that all the officers are to come from the directorate. The provision seems to be so ridiculous on its face as to carry its own certainty of amendment. However, it has a more important significance, the suggestion that if it could find its way into a bill for the wholesale revision of the State banking law the bill probably calls for careful and interested scrutiny in all its parts.

**A Good Citizen.**  
JOHN LAMBERT CADWALLADER, who died yesterday in his seventy-seventh year, was a lawyer of the old fashioned type that may be said to have made all law its province instead of restricting itself to the sharply divided and narrow provinces of the specialist. His mind was singularly penetrating and capacious; he seemed to have the gift of almost instant comprehension of the obscurest and most complicated details.

To this city Mr. CADWALLADER gave long and fruitful service as trustee of the Public Library, of the Metropolitan Museum of Art, the American Museum of Natural History and other institutions. He was a loyal son and faithful friend of Princeton University. His life was rich in multiform labor for the community.

Suppose Secretary BRYAN had been kidnapped and butchered himself. Would it have amounted to any more than the Vergara case?—Governor COLQUHOUN.  
What an absurd question! No one is going to kidnap Mr. BRYAN. A plot to spirit him across the Potomac would probably miscarry, for the chances are that he would not be found at the State Department. No one would ever think of butchering such a pious gentleman, although the Dove of Peace might be excused if it pecked him severely.

It seems that Mrs. O. G. WOLFE of El Paso has received a despatch from her husband, who was on Senator FALLA's list as murdered by the Mexicans, saying that he is alive and well and has never been molested by them. He is super-

tendent of the Creston-Colorado mines at Torres, Sonora. The Senator's list is obviously padded with outrages, and it may be suspected that most of his evidence is hearsay and extremely flimsy.

It is wise for us to wait a little and see what the results of the experiments with the intuitive and referential measures will be in other States, before we adopt them in Massachusetts. We are not in a paralytic condition where we need to resort to any means which we are not sure will be a benefit.—President LOWELL of Harvard University.

Traitor! It is unwise to await the result of any experiment before adopting the course urged by its advocates; and Massachusetts, along with all the other States, is, and of right ought to be, in a paralytic condition so long as every new remedy for ancient ills remains untried.

A moving picture man who induced General VILLA to sign a contract and pose for the films says that the General has neither been suggested nor conducted in a serious, dignified manner who conducts the affair of his army in a systematic and orderly manner, which would credit to a much older and more experienced military man. All the likenesses of "Pancho" VILLA seen in these parts show him to be a robust chap on a broad grin. It is wonderful what the "movies" can do for a man's reputation.

We know of no coming vacancy on the Supreme Court bench, and Mr. TARTT's name has neither been suggested nor considered by President WILSON for any judicial appointment.—Secretary TUMULTY.  
The firm of WILSON & TUMULTY will be bothered in this way every time Chief Justice WHITE or Associate Justice OLIVER WENDELL HOLMES has a birthday.

The word "social" is misunderstood, rather than misapplied. A portion of the younger element in the community associates the word "social" with dancing and dining, to the exclusion of those phases of the term which stand for mental enjoyment and intellectual betterment.—Dr. WILE of the Board of Education.  
Can't "social" in this sense maintain its title, or at least make a strong show of right? One can have mental enjoyment, and perhaps intellectual betterment, by one's self sitting by the fire and reading or looking into the coals. But who cares to dance or dine alone?

## THE MIDDLE OF THE ROAD.

Where Snow Should Be Piled When Skidways and Gutters Are Cleaned.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN—Sir: There is not some way of calling the attention of proper holders to the necessity not only for cleaning off the snow, but also for cleaning and freeing the gutters? It would entail little expense and trouble upon each household, but it would be a material aid in the center of the streets with an occasional opening in the pile that would allow for the passing or turning of horses and vehicles. Such a responsibility, if borne by each household, would save the city a large sum, reduce the wear and tear upon vehicles and the injury to horses and prevent the obstructions to traffic which now occur.

For years I have followed this plan in the street where I live, and have got the neighbors on either side and opposite to cooperate with me, so that in our block we have free passage for vehicles and room for them to turn.  
Could not the Street Cleaning Department facilitate the work of cleaning the city by following the same plan? The snow, piled in the center of the street, could then be carried off at least in the convenience of the department, but meanwhile traffic might go on unimpeded, particularly if the Police Department were enlisted to see that this plan were carried out.  
NEW YORK, March 11. E. C. P.

**Government Made Unemployed.**  
TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN—Sir: If the express companies are finally compelled to go out of business, what will become of the old employees who will be thrown out of employment? I am led to ask this question by the fact that my brother-in-law, in addition to many others, lost his position with the American Express Company when it was made a matter of owing to the parcel post. As he is 50 years old, he is debilitated by the civil service rules, from getting a position with the Government. He has now been out of employment for some time, and he cannot find work. It seems to me that there should be some way of employing these men in the parcel post. They certainly are valuable by their experience. What chance have they to find employment in other lines of work?

I think it is the height of cruelty on the part of a rich Government to throw these men out of work for no fault of their own.  
NEW YORK, March 11. J. S. L.  
**The Army-Navy Game.**  
TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN—Sir: All loyal New Yorkers should be pleased at the announcement that the Army-Navy football game is to be played at the Polo Grounds. There is no other city or town in the United States in which the facilities are as up to date and perfect for the purpose. It is a pity that the game is to be played at the Polo Grounds. The 1913 game was played here and it was played under peculiar conditions, inasmuch as it was the first time the game was played at the Polo Grounds. The game was in the nature of an experiment. Those in charge at the Polo Grounds, and in fact the entire city, were on trial, and made good in every way. Persons who have been present at the athletic struggle between the two academies for many years were profuse in their praise of the way in which the game was handled in this city. It was the best seen here.

So there is no reason why the great struggle should not take place here in 1914. It may be a little inconvenient for the Middle, but the authorities of that institution have put him on the Watchful Waiting Committee down in his desecrated.  
NEW YORK, March 11. KNICK.  
**The Grateful Breakfast.**  
TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN—Sir: Far be it from me to introduce any religious effects in American breakfasts, but this matter of peas happened just this morning to me and I am full of it. I felt hungry after an all night railroad journey, and stopping in a liberty street restaurant ordered with chops, toast and coffee. With the chops arrived fried potatoes and green peas. Excellent breakfast. Sticks to your ribs.  
NEW YORK, March 11. P. S.  
**The Watchman on the Towers of State.**  
TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN—Sir: I see that my friend M. U. Vigil of Albuquerque, New Mexico, has been appointed Commissioner to the Panama-Pacific exposition. Seems to me that the Vigil family ought to put him on the Watchful Waiting Committee down in his desecrated.  
NEW YORK, March 11. P. S.  
**"Apple Pie Order."**  
TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN—Sir: Speaking of apple pie, what is the origin of the name "apple pie order"? Is it from that old game "A was an apple B hit it C cut it" &c? &c. E. WEINBAUM.  
SCRANTON, Pa., March 11.

**Streets of New York.**  
TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN—Sir: Why is it that most of the drivers of motor cars used to cart away the snow are big "bushy" fellows, while many of the men doing the hard work of shovelling are small and old?  
NEWARK, N. J., March 11. PAINTGUNS.

## 10. PUNXSUTAWNEY!

The Glorious and Sacred Site of the World's One Groundhog.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN—Sir: I have been a reader of THE SUN for fifteen years, and I have followed with intense interest the groundhog, for I believe that it is partly the fault of the esteemed Manhattan luminary that the little marmot has been allowed to deceive, prognosticate the future, and allow me to give you a basis for the complaint.

Punxsutawney, Pa., my native town, located in the central western part, boasts of the only Groundhog Club in the world. The very best of its own work. In 1902, and was its post laureate and secretary until 1909, when it had a membership of 450. It was organized for the purpose of exterminating the woodchuck. Every year in September the club calls a meeting and conducts a hunt. The foothills of the Alleghenies are scoured for miles and miles and the proceeds brought to a central point, where a great feast is prepared. In Punxsutawney the official weatherwork of Br'er Groundhog would be transferred to Punxsutawney for the day, and that it would guarantee that the only real weather prognosticator would produce fifty-seven varieties of weather in three hours. The demonstration was given before Edwin S. Stuart, then Governor of the State; Justice John P. Elkin of the State Supreme Court, Professor Alexander T. Ormond of Princeton University, members of the State Legislature, men prominent in politics, society, finance, meteorology, astrology, and marmotology. Fully 30,000 people were in attendance. The huge success, for from fifty-seven great floats were dispensed that day fifty-seven varieties of weather, including rain, snow, hail, sleet, blizzards, fog, backward, cloudy, partly cloudy, sunny, volcanic action, thunder, lightning, &c.

The parade was called the Circumratory Parent of the Prophets and Meteorologists of Punxsutawney Weather. It included fifty-seven floats aforementioned, 160 prophets and meteorologists afoot, and 200 animals from the jungle, known as the Coon Hollow and Br'er Groundhog, ensconced in his observatory, took his position alongside of the stand occupied by Governor Stuart and the other dignitaries. As each float passed in front of the Governor the participants were bawled out, but when he asked to have the parade repeated, which was done, the whole show consuming a period of over five hours.

During the hours of the parade had been busy with spade and mattock, and that night at the Governor's banquet over 400 marmots were served. As to the delicacy of the groundhog as a table delicacy, I have heard of no other mentioned and 400 others attest.  
Now here is my "grouch." THE SUN was invited to send representatives to that banquet, but the invitation went unheeded. I have heard, however, that when you made comment about that same banquet from second hand information you referred to the patron saint of the Punxsutawney Groundhog Club as a "rank" and "low-down" fellow. The weather you have been having in Little Old New York and elsewhere in these United States this winter, excepting in certain spots, has been exactly what was predicted by the Punxsutawney Groundhog Club herby renewed seeing that THE SUN has come to realize the situation, and unless the author of what you characterize as "The Crime of February 21" has been made a matter of official record in the church books of the parish and these records are readily accessible. Because of his social status this gentleman's birth must have been a matter of sufficient note and importance to family and friends to remove it from the atmosphere of tradition and hearsay gossip on which most claims to great age are based.

As the information contained in this letter is furnished solely as a contribution to an interesting discussion that has been given space in THE SUN from time to time, I do not intend to trouble the privacy of my subject by still further lifting. As is usual, his regimen, either with the glee of predilection or the snuff of prejudice.

**A German Centenary.**  
TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN—Sir: There is a very recent one living in Blackburg, Brunswick, Germany, a retired district official who completed his 102d year January 31, 1914. His name is Carl Wilhelm Eduard Lerche, born 1812. He lived in the United States for 40 years, and until retirement held offices of increasing responsibility and honor. He was pensioned in 1892.  
In 1812 and for many years before in Germany, all births were made a matter of official record in the church books of the parish and these records are readily accessible. Because of his social status this gentleman's birth must have been a matter of sufficient note and importance to family and friends to remove it from the atmosphere of tradition and hearsay gossip on which most claims to great age are based.

**Electrical Wiring.**  
TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN—Sir: It is about time the electrical fraternity generally "put up" a vigorous "kick" against the ignorance and carelessness of both the parties who make it. Reporters generally are intelligent men and it is up to them to stop this.  
NEW YORK, March 11. E. W. STEVENSON.  
**The Art of Driving an Ash Cart.**  
TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN—Sir: Is there no one in the Street Cleaning Department who is strong enough to stop cruelty to the horses? Ash cart drivers should be made to start with the empty cart at the head of the street to load up with ashes and work toward the dump instead of starting near the dump and forcing the poor horses to pull the heavy load twice over the same ground.  
J. MUELLER.  
NEW YORK, March 11.  
**Amoria Dementia.**  
I'm sick all through, from top to toe  
The way my pulses ebb and flow  
Would seem to indicate, sleek,  
That my complaint is cardiac;  
But I have lost all taste for food,  
So eat I but for need, and I am  
Again, though far indeed from death,  
At times a catch comes in my breath;  
My bones heave till 'twould appear  
That pulmonary trouble's near.  
Next there's a tingling of the nerves  
That diagnosis well deserves.  
Since all of this by which man's cursed  
The neuropathic are the worst.  
I must say of late I feel  
To whom I found it best to speak  
My vocal cords must be amiss.  
Else, whence came their paralytic?  
Cerebral lesions, too, I fear,  
For my mind was far from clear.  
But I've one symptom strange yet,  
Though thus completely I'm upset:  
Life seems more joyous, strange to tell,  
Than ever it did when I was well.  
What's the cause of it, I don't know,  
I am the victim of a queer pitch  
I feel her spell is over me thrown,  
'Tis she can cure and she alone!  
GEORGE B. MORSEWOOD.

## POLITICAL CONVENTIONS.

Mr. Lincoln's Resolutions in Their Favor in 1843.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN—Sir: I notice in THE SUN a letter signed by James H. Youngman assuming to demonstrate by quotations from the "Life of Abraham Lincoln" by Ida M. Tarbell that Mr. Lincoln was opposed to the institution of political conventions and would be at the present time if alive. The last sentence of the letter is as follows: "Have we any warrant for believing that were he living now the position he took in 1855 would be altered?" I answer yes; the very best of our own work. Let me refer Mr. Youngman to Nicolay and Hay's "Complete Works of Abraham Lincoln," Volume I, pages 240, 241 and 242, title, "Resolutions of a Joint Meeting at Springfield, Illinois, March 1843." The object of the meeting was stated by Mr. Lincoln of Springfield, who offered the following resolutions, which were unanimously adopted. The first four resolutions are not material to the subject now considered, relating to a tariff on imports, direct taxation, a national bank and the sale of public lands; but note this:

Resolved, That we recommend to the Whigs of each Congressional district of the State to nominate and support in the approaching election a candidate of their own principles, regardless of their chances of success.

Resolved, That we recommend to the Whigs of all portions of the State to adopt and rigidly adhere to the convention system of nominating candidates.  
Resolved, That we recommend to the Whigs of each Congressional district to hold a district convention on or before the first Monday of May next, to be composed of a number of delegates from each county equal to double the number of electors in the General Assembly, providing each county shall have at least one delegate, said delegates to be chosen by primary meetings of the Whigs at such times and places as they in their respective counties may deem proper. The delegates to be chosen by the Whigs to prepare an address to the people of the State.

This address was written by Mr. Lincoln and signed by the committee, and the discussion of the sixth resolution, pages 253, 254 and 255, was as strong an advocacy of the convention system as it would be possible to write.

The foregoing can also be found in Volume II of the "Works of Abraham Lincoln," centenary edition.  
In the volume first quoted, page 260, I found the following letter to John Bennett, dated March 1843:

In it you will find a brief argument in favor of conventions, and although I wrote it myself I will say to you that it is conclusive upon the point and cannot be reasonably answered.

Good Whigs who are disposed to stick out against conventions, get him at least to read the argument in their favor in the address.

For his attitude in 1855 we have the hearsay testimony of Miss Tarbell, corroborated by Nicolay and Hay in another work and in almost identical language; but for his position in 1843 there is the evidence of his own writing. That this was no sudden conversion on his part is shown by the following quotation from the address:

We do not mention the fact of many of the Whigs opposing the convention system heretofore for the purpose of censuring them. Far from it. We are simply pointing out a system, as against those who opposed it.

Here he distinctly aligns himself with those who had previously favored the convention system, as against those who opposed it.

The question is answered, is it not? And the following is a pertinent query: Is not THE SUN's position that Abraham Lincoln would have been a "rank" and "low-down" fellow for the most part ignorantly, well taken?

GEORGE W. KERR.  
SPRINGFIELD, Mass., March 11.

## HIS HUNDRED YEARS.

A Quaker Farmer of Aurora Approaching His Centenary.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN—Sir: If Mr. Alfred King, an old resident of this town, shall live three or four days longer he will be able to celebrate the completion of his hundredth birthday. His standing as a Quaker and his similar claims of longevity, I think the evidence in this case establishes the fact beyond any question. He was brought to this country from England by his parents, members of the Society of Friends, over ninety years ago; and he has in his possession a somewhat unique document, his certificate of birth, which reads:

On the Fourteenth day of the Third month, 1714, Alfred King, of Hundred and Fourteen, was born in the Parish of Thornborough in the County of Bucks, unto William King of Thornborough, Farmer, and Mary his wife, a Quaker, named Alfred. We, his subscribers, are his witnesses thereof.  
EDWARD SOUTHAM, Surgeon.  
MARTHA COLEMAN.  
LONDON: Printed by George Yard, Lombard Street.

As a member of the Society of Friends and by vocation a farmer, it is hardly necessary to say that he has lived a sober, industrious and useful life. He will be past 95 or 96 years of age he made his garden every spring. I see no reason for anticipating his early decease.

ALBERT LEFFINGWELL, M. D.  
AURORA, March 11.

## "The Sun's" Bread Dept.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN—Sir: It is the opinion of our class that many deserving poor are ashamed to go to your bread depot at 260 Elizabeth street. We think that by "the darkness of friendship" many more would avail themselves of Mr. Kamber's kindness. We therefore suggest that the hours for distribution be changed to read 7 to 9 P. M.

CHAS. S. P. 8, 62, Manhattan.  
NEW YORK, March 11.

## Woman Suffrage in Chicago.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN—Sir: I have obtained from Chicago the following figures: The number of women of voting age in Chicago eligible to register and vote is estimated to be 516,092. The number of women who registered was 158,524; those who voted at the primary election were 47,674. That is, a little over 30 per cent. of the female citizen voted.

**The Memory of a Statesman.**  
TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN—Sir: I always knew Jim Martins was a great hand to remember people, but I had never known him full credit till down to the store the other night we all put our heads together and sort of sized him up. We was slightly surprised how far back Jim can really go remembering names, and I calculate you'll be too when you hear that Amariah Ryan had to tell about it.

Amariah was telling about how Jim dropped in over to his place to borrow a pig, saw the morning after Amariah's last boy was born a spell ago. Jim he came into the kitchen, and he spied the nurse lugging the boy along through the buttry, and he walked right up to the woman and asked the little fellow on the head and says, says he, "Well, well! Are how's little Willie this bright spring morning?" Jim had it right. Amariah went and named the boy after William Jennings Bryan the very next week. MRS. JESS OF JERSEY.  
PLAINFIELD, N. J., March 11.

## Doors of Escape.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN—Sir: